

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /065 W
----- 048344

R 291435Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5824

S E C R E T ASUNCION 3842

E.O. 11652/ XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, PA

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY

REF: A) STATE 228764; B) EMBASSY A-17, MARCH 3, 1975;
C) EMBASSY A-85, SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

1. THOUGH REF A) WAS SENT TO EMBASSY FOR INFO ONLY, WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING UP-DATED INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN PARAGUAY MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT. AT TIME REF B) WAS PREPARED, PARAGUAY WAS STILL IN STATE OF ABNORMAL TENSION FOLLOWING ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT STROESSNER IN NOVEMBER 1974. GOVERNMENT WAS DEFINITELY SHAKEN BY EVENT AND REACTED HARSHLY, ARRESTING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FOR SUSPECTED INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT.

2. SITUATION NOW IS MUCH MORE RELAXED. ACCORDING TO LIST JUST FURNISHED EMBASSY BY GOP MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, NUMBER OF THOSE DETAINED UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISION NOW STANDS AT 83, INCLUDING 33 "HARD-CORE" SUBVERSIVES FROM PRE-NOVEMBER 1974 PERIOD. MINISTRY REPORTS SHOW THAT A DOZEN OR SO PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, INCLUDING THREE OF "HARD-CORE" ELEMENT. THIS INDICATES THAT PRE-NOVEMBER 1974 TREND OF GRADUAL REDUCTION NUMBER OF DETAINEES APPARENTLY HAS BEEN RESUMED. (WHILE WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR ACCURACY OF
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GOP-FURNISHED LIST, WE BELIEVE WE NOW HAVE A CLEARER IDEA

OF GENERAL RANGE OF NUMBER OF DETAINEES). PROVIDING
INTERNAL CONDITIONS REMAIN RELATIVELY CALM, EMBASSY
BELIEVES NUMBER OF POLITICAL DETAINEES PROBABLY WILL
CONTINUE TO BE REDUCED.

2. WITH RESPECT TO TREATMENT OF INDIANS, RECENT VISIT
OF EMBASSY OFFICER TO CONTROVERSIAL INDIAN RESERVATION
(REPORTED REF C) CONFIRMS EARLIER FINDINGS THAT CONDITIONS
ON RESERVATION ARE SATISFACTORY AND THAT, GIVEN LIMITED
VAREOURCES AVAILABLE, GP AND MISSIONARY GROUP ARE MAKING
PROGRESS IN IMPROVING WELFARE OF INDIANS. EMBASSY OFFICER
FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ALLEGATIONS IN FOREIGN
PRESS THAT INDIANS ON RESERVATION WERE BEING MISTREATED
OR EXPLOITED.
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Message Attributes

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